



## Next Meeting Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May Belviour Guides Hall, 6 Silva Drive West Wodonga



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# CLUB NEWS - Meeting in April

The April meeting was attended by 10 members with a great BBQ lunch to kick off.

The meeting had one item raised, that of a new secretary.

Frank VK2BFC was nominated by Matt VK3VS, seconded by Gary VK2VU and passed unanimously.

We have since brought all our required government paperwork up to date and are now formulating plans for the coming year. A joint Hamfest with Wagga amateur radio club was raised.

This has been put to the Wagga amateur radio club, who are not against the idea.

The C4FM Repeater has completed its 1000 hour test and will be installed on the VK3RWO site in the near future. This is a dual mode repeater with both FM and C4FM.

On C4FM the repeater is connected to a "node radio" at VK2BFC residence, which in turn connects it to the Wires-X network.

We had an introduction by new member VK3MS, prior president of Waverly ARC, and WICEN Operations manager. We also have a returning member Shane VK3KHS.

EXAMS: Congratulations to our 2 applicants who both passed 100% now licensed as VK3SMW and VK3NFS.

NEVARC is now recognized as an amateur radio club by RSG and ARRL as well as WIA and RASA.

REPEATER: C4FM repeater has been purchased for use by the club.

Yaesu granted NEVARC a \$1100 repeater grant for club use.

The C4FM repeater is a DRX-2E repeater dual mode repeater on 70cm.

This will be installed at the VK3RWO site in the near future once a squelch operated shutdown board is installed. Coverage is expected to be excellent. Frequencies are 438.6/438.1 and the repeater is available now albeit not at ultimate height.

2M repeater: when 70cm repeater installed the 2 meter repeater will be removed for maintenance.

40m Net: The Australia Ham Radio 40 Meter Net averages 30-35 users a day, the Net is still going strong hosted by Ron VK3AHR.

Contests: General discussion on future contests the club may become involved in.

Possible to enter the RD contest in August, with possible use of the clubrooms, depending on noise.

A subcommittee to manage contests is to be arranged.

Gary VK2VU STILL has a 15m tower to give away. Contact Gary for details.

## WIA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Greetings fellow NEVARC Member,

Are you a WIA Member?

We need to know if you are for our application regarding insurance from the WIA.

Please reply to Club Secretary, Frank Scott, [frankscott@bigpond.com](mailto:frankscott@bigpond.com) indicating if you are a WIA member or not. Please let me know without delay.

Many Thanks, Frank

# WATCHING VK3RTV WITH VLC PLAYER

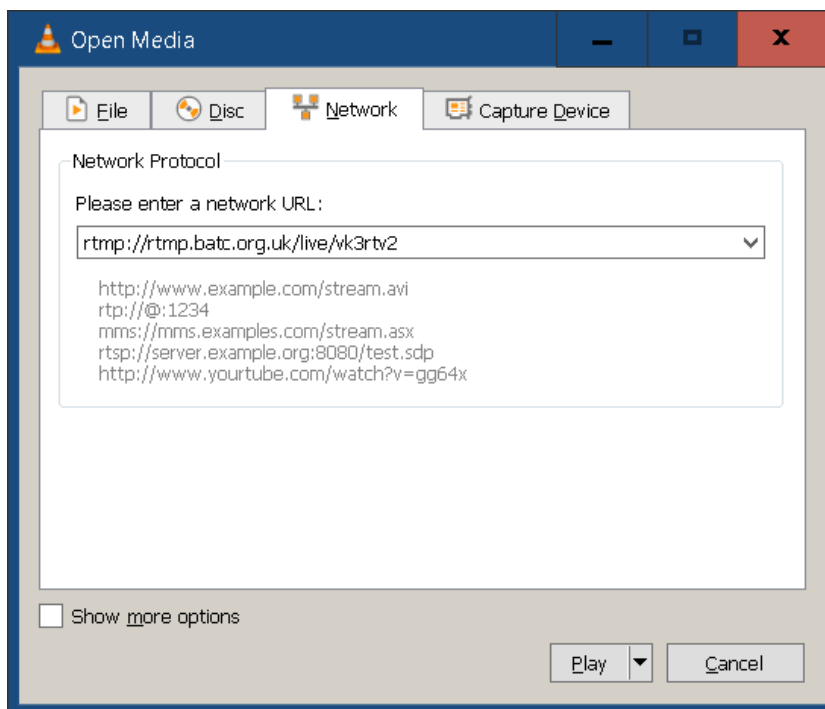
Since the demise of Flash at the end of last year, a standard web browser uses the HTML 5 stream and has about 15 seconds delay on the streamed signal.

VLC enables you to watch a flash stream with ~ 5 seconds delay.

Simply follow these instructions:

Download VLC – that's if you don't already have this on your PC!

Go to "Media" > "open network stream":



Enter the following in to the network URL box:

rtmp://rtmp.batc.org.uk/live/vk3rtv1 - where VK3RTV1 is the name of the stream you want to watch.

Or put rtmp://rtmp.batc.org.uk/live/vk3rtv2 instead if you want to watch VK3RTV2.

Press play.

## To create a desktop shortcut in Windows

Firstly create a shortcut to VLC on your desktop, then right click on the shortcut and add the path to your favourite channel at the end of the line in the "Target" window.

"C:\Program Files\VideoLAN\VLC64\vlc.exe" rtmp://rtmp.batc.org.uk/live/vk3rtv1

By adding -f it will open in full screen

"C:\Program Files\VideoLAN\VLC64\vlc.exe" -f rtmp://rtmp.batc.org.uk/live/vk3rtv1

# The life and death of the first space chimp



Ham the chimpanzee's journey took him from a rainforest in Cameroon to the edge of space

On January 31, 1961, an intrepid chimpanzee called Ham was launched on a rocket from Cape Canaveral in the United States, and returned to Earth alive. In this process, he became the first hominin in space.

In the 1950s, it was unclear whether humans could survive outside Earth — both physically and mentally. The science fiction writer and warfare expert Cordwainer Smith wrote about the psychological pain of being in space.

Plants, insects and animals had been taken to high altitudes in balloons and rockets since the 18th century. The Soviet Union sent the dog Laika into orbit on Sputnik 2 in 1957. She died, but from overheating rather than the effects of space travel itself.

While the USSR focused on dogs, the US turned to chimpanzees as they were the most like humans. The stakes became higher when US President John F. Kennedy promised to land humans on the Moon by the end of the 1960s.

## **Biography of a non-human astronaut**

Ham was born in 1957 in a rainforest in the Central African nation of Cameroon, then a French territory. He was captured and taken to an astronaut school for chimps at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico.

The astrochimps were trained to pull levers, with a banana pellet as a reward and an electric shock to the feet for failure. The chosen chimp would test life support systems and demonstrate that equipment could be operated during spaceflight. Ham showed great aptitude, and was selected the day before the flight.

On January 31, 1961, Ham was launched into space, strapped into a capsule inside the nosecone of a Mercury-Redstone rocket. The rocket travelled at 9,000km/h, and reached an altitude of 251km. The whole flight took 16 minutes from launch to return.





Ham with one of his handlers on the day of the spaceflight

Throughout the journey Ham was obliged to pull a lever. He received two shocks for not doing this correctly, out of 50 pulls. He achieved this with a 16cm rectal thermometer in place to monitor his temperature.

He experienced 6.6 minutes of free fall and 14.7g of acceleration on descent — much greater than predicted. The biomedical data showed Ham experienced stress during acceleration and deceleration.

Jane Goodall, an expert in primate behaviour, said she had never seen such terror in a chimp's expression. However, Ham was calm when weightless.

Ham survived the flight itself, but nearly drowned when the capsule started filling with water after its ocean splashdown. Fortunately, the helicopter recovery team reached him in time. Ham's treat on emerging from the spacecraft was an apple, which he devoured eagerly.

After his flight, Ham lived for 20 years by himself, in a zoo in Washington DC. People wrote him letters, and some were answered by zoo staff signed with Ham's fingerprint. In 1980 he was sent to another zoo to live with a group of chimps. He died in 1983 at the age of 26.

A proposal to stuff and display his body was abandoned after an outcry. But he did undergo a post mortem. Ham's flesh was stripped from his skeleton, cremated, and buried at the Space Hall of Fame in Almagordo, New Mexico. The National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington DC retains his bones.



Ham clasps the hand of a member of the recovery team after exit from the capsule

## Cyborg and simian, man and machine

Ham sits at an interesting intersection of race, gender and species.

"Ham" was an acronym for Holloman Aero Medical, but as American philosopher of science Donna Haraway has pointed out, "Ham's name inevitably recalls Noah's youngest and only black son".

While the chimps were in training at the Holloman Airforce Base, women were actively excluded from spaceflight. Pilot Jerrie Cobb said she would take the place of one of the chimps if it meant having a shot at space.

The astronauts of the 1960s Mercury program felt their masculinity threatened by performing the same tasks as chimps. In a scene from the 1983 film *The Right Stuff*, based on Tom Wolfe's book for which he did extensive interviews with the astronauts, one says:

Well none of us wants to think that they're going to send a monkey up to do a man's work ... what they're trying to do to us is send a man up to do a monkey's work.

In the *I Dream of Jeannie* episode "Fly me to the Moon" (1967), astronauts Tony Nelson and Roger Healey train Sam the chimp for spaceflight.

They are envious that Sam gets to go to the Moon before them.

"He can't make any decisions, we might as well have a robot up there," says Major Nelson.

This refers to an ongoing battle among both Soviet and US astronauts about how much autonomy they would have as pilots. On both sides of the Iron Curtain, being controlled by machines was felt to diminish masculinity.

Chimps in space also threatened the accepted evolutionary order. In some versions of the famous "March of Progress" illustration of human evolution, the first figure is a knuckle-walking ape and the last is an astronaut. Ham was leapfrogging to the front of the evolutionary queue in a Planet of the Apes-style interspecies competition.

Ham's spaceflight made him more than animal, but still less than human.

A mere 10 weeks after Ham's feat, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space when he orbited Earth on April 12.

On November 26, Enos the chimp completed an orbit.

We don't send animals into orbit any more as proxies for human experience.

But there is one chimp still in space.

The calls of a wild chimp were recorded on the Voyager Golden Records, now heading out beyond the Solar system.

*~Internet*

# 5G SPECTRUM SALE

Australia's largest telcos have spent more than \$600 million on crucial radio wave spectrum that will help them build 5G networks and dramatically improve mobile and internet speeds.

Telstra spent \$276.6 million on buying 1000MHz of 26GHz spectrum, which is highly sought after because it can be used to build high-speed mobile networks. TPG Telecom will pay \$108.2 million for licences in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, while Optus was awarded licences in most capital cities for \$226.2 million by the Australian Communications and Media Authority. Including smaller providers Dense Air Australia and Pentanet Limited, the group of telcos spent \$647.6 million.

Mr Penn said the spectrum would allow the \$40 billion telco giant to invest in building standalone 5G networks for specific industries such as mining.

"We are talking with a number of miners about building their own 5G private network on a mine location where they can provide connectivity. They do that...because to try and automate the mine with robotics they need sensors infused in everything, but that then needs to be communicated," Mr Penn said.

The acquisition of the spectrum will also lead to a wider rollout of 5G fixed wireless services, which are considered an alternative to the NBN.

"If we can provide a better solution using 5G than they are able to get with NBN technology... that's exactly what we do," Mr Penn said.

His views were shared by TPG Telecom chief executive Iñaki Berroeta, who declared the outcome a good development for shareholders.

"The spectrum will enable us to deliver 5G fixed wireless services as a compelling NBN alternative, and it will also benefit mobile services in high foot-traffic areas such as CBDs," Mr Berroeta said.

This month's auction marked the first time the 26GHz radio wave spectrum was made available. The licences will come into force for 15 years within months. A second auction for the 850MHz/900MHz bands will occur later this year. The telco industry believes that improving network coverage will eventually generate a boost in revenue.

Optus' managing director of networks Lambo Kanagaratnam said the spectrum would have large benefits for businesses.

"For enterprise, this spectrum could support remote controlled automation, for example robotics in a warehouse or factory, or the creation of a secured private network at a university campus to support thousands of students and academics," he said. "In short, we are armed with the ability to build and expand our 5G network and deliver on the future of 5G in the home, office or on-the-go."

*~Internet*





**I AM NOT AN  
EARLY BIRD OR A  
NIGHT OWL.  
I AM SOME FORM  
OF PERMANENTLY  
EXHAUSTED PIGEON.**

**Lincoln told his dad that he wanted to learn how to train his puppy. His dad said there were lots of dog training videos on YouTube. So here he is, showing them to the dog!**



# 2021 MDRC Hamfest

Please note the venue change

## General Information

Saturday 8th of May 2021

Door opens at 10 am

Kingston City Hall,

975-985 Nepean Hwy

Corner South Rd and Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin

Cost: \$7

Free Parking

+

One Major Door Prize Entry Ticket

Repeater Communications

VK3RSE

439.900 MHz

# NEVARC Net



## 40 Meter Net

7 Days a Week

10am Local time

(East coast)

7.097 MHz LSB

Approximately + or – QRM

Hosted by Ron VK3AHR

*“Australia Ham Radio 40 Meter Net”*

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President, VK2VU, Gary  
Vice President, Tom VK3NXT  
Secretary, VK2FKLR, Kathleen  
Treasurer, Amy



## NEVARC CLUB PROFILE

### History

The North East Victoria Amateur Radio Club (NEVARC) formed in 2014.  
As of the 7th August 2014, Incorporated, Registered Incorporation number A0061589C.  
NEVARC is an affiliated club of the Wireless Institute of Australia and The Radio Amateur Society of Australia Inc.

### Meetings

Meetings details are on the club website, the Second Sunday of every month, check for latest scheduled details.  
Meetings held at the Belvoir Guides Hall, 6 Silva Drive West Wodonga.  
Meetings commence with a BBQ (with a donation tin for meat) at 12pm with meeting afterwards.  
Members are encouraged to turn up a little earlier for clubroom maintenance.  
Call in Via VK3RWO, 146.975, 123 Hz tone.

### VK3ANE NETS

#### HF

7.097 MHz      7 Days a Week - 10am Local time  
3.622 MHz      Wednesday - 8.30pm Local time

### Benefits

To provide the opportunity for Amateur Radio Operators and Short Wave Listeners to enhance their hobby through interaction with other Amateur Radio Operators and Short Wave Listeners. Free technology and related presentations, sponsored construction activities, discounted (and sometimes free) equipment, network of likeminded radio and electronics enthusiasts. Excellent club facilities and environment, ample car parking.

**Website:**      [www.nevarc.org.au](http://www.nevarc.org.au)

**Postal:**      **NEVARC Secretary**  
**PO Box 8006**  
**Birallee Park**  
**Wodonga Vic 3690**

**Facebook:**      [www.facebook.com/nevicARC/](http://www.facebook.com/nevicARC/)

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All editors' comments and other opinions in submitted articles may not always represent the opinions of the committee or the members of NEVARC, but published in spirit, to promote interest and active discussion on club activities and the promotion of Amateur Radio.

Contributions to NEVARC News are always welcome from members.

Email attachments of Word™, Plain Text, Excel™, PDF™ and JPG are all acceptable.

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Attachments of (or thought to be) executable code or virulently affected emails will not be opened.

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While we strive to be accurate, no responsibility taken for errors, omissions, or other perceived deficiencies, in respect of information contained in technical or other articles.

Any dates, times and locations given for upcoming events please check with a reliable source closer to the event.

This is particularly true for pre-planned outdoor activities affected by adverse weather etc.

The club website <http://nevarc.org.au> has current information on planned events and scheduled meeting dates.

You can get the WIA News sent to your inbox each week by simply clicking a link and entering your email address found at [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au) The links for either text email or MP3 voice files are there as well as Podcasts and Twitter. This WIA service is FREE.